

Technical Branch
Library, Museum and Zoo Group
Zoo Series

ANIMAL DIETS SPECIALIST

01/91

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS:

Under general supervision, monitors the nutrition program for zoo animals; manages animal diet commissary; assists in the execution of veterinary technician duties; performs related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

Prepares and dispenses diets for the animal collection; orders food and supplements, maintains inventory, determines substitution and assures proper nutrients; orders and maintains supplies; maintains individual diet master records; keeps current on available food sources, quality and relative costs; advises and trains animal care staff on proper animal nutrition; observes animals to evaluate diet utilization and proper nutrition.

Assists veterinary technician in managing animal health care and nutrition program; consults with animal care staff on feeding program strategies; maintains computerized records on animal inventory, concerning species requirements, diets, nutrition and food nutrients; evaluates laboratory analysis of nutritional data; investigates animal nutritional problems; conducts and participates in continuing education programs for staff; assists veterinary technician in the animal health procedures; maintains logs, records and prepares reports.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Training and Experience: Associate degree or two years equivalent education from an accredited college or university in animal husbandry, technology, nutrition or related field and two years experience in animal care involving nutrition of domestic and/or exotic animals; or an equivalent combination of training and experience.

Knowledge, Abilities and Skills: Good knowledge of animal species behavior and diets; good knowledge of nutritional impact of diseases, pests and parasites; good knowledge of animal nutrition principles and practical feeding; good knowledge of available food, sources and costs; good knowledge of diet formulation and nutritional substitution; knowledge of general animal care and effect of disease processes.

Ability to formulate and analyze diets; ability to investigate nutritional problems in animals; ability to recognize abnormal animal behavior; ability to express oneself clearly and concisely, orally and in writing; ability to maintain complex records and prepare reports; ability to maintain effective relationship with fellow employees and the general public; ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions.

Skill in use of food preparation, sanitizing, refrigeration and service equipment; skill in general animal handling techniques; skill in use of computers; skill in operating of food preparation facility.

Physical Requirements: Must work with zoo animals; lift and carry heavy objects (up to 50 pounds); enter and access animal areas; work in humid surroundings; work under all weather conditions; subject to call during non-working hours; work various shifts and weekends; load and unload vehicles carrying food items; receive, stock, store, rotate and inventory supplies; operation of a vehicle through city traffic.

Licenses and Certificates: Texas Class "C" Driver's License or comparable license issued by another state.

Director of Personnel

Department Head